

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. – 28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended) A method for retrieving a vena cava filter from a blood vessel, comprising the steps of:

providing a vena cava filter retrieval device, the device including a tubular sheath, a shaft slidable within the sheath, and means for retrieving a filtering device attached to the shaft;

advancing the retrieval device through a blood vessel to a location adjacent a vena cava filter, the vena cava filter including a hub, the hub defining a narrow portion of the filter, and a plurality of arms extending from the hub, the arms defining a wide portion of the filter;

extending the shaft out from a distal end of the sheath so that the means for retrieving a filtering device engages the hub narrow portion; and

retracting the filter into the sheath.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein means for retrieving a filtering device includes a wire loop and wherein the step of extending the shaft out from a distal end of the sheath so that the means for retrieving a filtering device engages the hub includes engaging the wire loop with the hub.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein means for retrieving a filtering device includes a wire loop and the hub includes a hook, and wherein the step of extending the shaft out from a distal end of the sheath so that the means for retrieving a filtering device engages the hub includes engaging the wire loop with the hook.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein means for retrieving a filtering device includes a plurality of distal members and wherein the step of extending the shaft out from a distal end of the sheath so that the means for retrieving a filtering device engages the hub includes engaging the distal members with the hub.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the step of retracting the filter into the sheath includes retracting the arms of the filter into the sheath and then retracting the hub into the sheath.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the step of retracting the filter into the sheath includes retracting the hub into the sheath and then retracting the arms of the filter into the sheath.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of engaging a stabilizing shaft with the filter.

36. (Currently amended) A method for retrieving a vena cava filter from a blood vessel, comprising the steps of:

providing a vena cava filter retrieval device, the device including a tubular sheath, a shaft slidable within the sheath, and means for retrieving a filtering device attached to the shaft;

advancing the retrieval device through a blood vessel to a location adjacent a vena cava filter, the vena cava filter including a hub, the hub defining a narrow portion of the filter, and a plurality of arms extending from the hub, the arms defining a wide portion of the filter, each arm including a barb at a proximal end thereof that is embedded within the blood vessel;

extending the shaft out from a distal end of the sheath so that the means for retrieving a filtering device engages the ~~hub~~ narrow portion;

releasing the barbs from the blood vessel; and

retrieving the filter into the sheath.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein means for retrieving a filtering device includes a wire loop and wherein the step of extending the shaft out from a distal end of the sheath so that the means for retrieving a filtering device engages the hub includes engaging the wire loop with the hub.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein means for retrieving a filtering device includes a wire loop and the hub includes a hook, and wherein the step of extending the shaft out from a distal end of the sheath so that the means for retrieving a filtering device engages the hub includes engaging the wire loop with the hook.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein means for retrieving a filtering device includes a plurality of distal members and wherein the step of extending the shaft out from a distal end of the sheath so that the means for retrieving a filtering device engages the hub includes engaging the distal members with the hub.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the step of retrieving the filter into the sheath includes retracting the arms of the filter into the sheath and then retracting the hub into the sheath.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the step of retrieving the filter into the sheath includes retracting the hub into the sheath and then retracting the arms of the filter into the sheath.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the step of releasing the barbs from the blood vessel includes pulling on the filter with the means for retrieving a filtering device.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of engaging a stabilizing shaft with the filter.

44. (Currently amended) A method for releasing a vena cava filter from a blood vessel, comprising the steps of:

providing a vena cava filter retrieval device, the device including a tubular sheath and a retrieval member slidably disposed within the sheath;

advancing the retrieval device through a blood vessel to a location adjacent a vena cava filter, the vena cava filter including a hub, the hub defining a narrow portion of the filter, and a plurality of arms extending from the hub, the arms defining a wide portion of the filter, each arm including a barb at a proximal end thereof that is embedded within the blood vessel; and

engaging the retrieval member with the ~~hub~~ narrow portion so that the barbs release from the blood vessel.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the retrieval member includes a wire loop and wherein the step of engaging the retrieval member with the hub so that the barbs release from the blood vessel includes engaging the wire loop with the hub.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the retrieval member includes a wire loop and the hub includes a hook, and wherein the step of engaging the retrieval member with the hub so that the barbs release from the blood vessel includes engaging the wire loop with the hook.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the retrieval member includes a plurality of distal members and wherein the step of engaging the retrieval member with the hub so that the barbs release from the blood vessel includes engaging the distal members with the hub.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, further comprising the step of retrieving the filter into the sheath.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the step of retrieving the filter into the sheath includes retracting the arms of the filter into the sheath and then retracting the hub into the sheath.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the step of retrieving the filter into the sheath includes retracting the hub into the sheath and then retracting the arms of the filter into the sheath.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the step of engaging the retrieval member with the hub so that the barbs release from the blood vessel includes pulling on the filter with the retrieval member.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, further comprising the step of engaging a stabilizing shaft with the filter.